

Ser. No. 09/874,696
Amdt. dated April 14, 2004
Reply to Office action of December 03, 2003

RCA 88682

Remarks/Arguments

An objective of the present invention is to "provide a user with an easy and efficient way to search for a program." (page 3, line 29-30) The present invention addresses this objective by displaying "concurrently a list of program descriptive fields and an entry for entering a text string " as recited by the current claim 1. This allows the user to operate the search function and modify the text string while viewing or modifying the descriptive field. Previous search methods required the user to first select a descriptive field, then enter a search string, and finally initiate the search that then displayed the results on a separate screen. If the user wished to modify the search criteria from title to actor for example, the user had to abandon the present search and return to the descriptive field selection screen and completely restart the process. This process can become very time consuming if a user is trying to conduct multiple searches to locate a desirable program. This required time consuming repetition may eventual dissuade the user from using the search feature at all as the user may feel it is quicker just to surf the guide herself. Using the present invention, the user can concurrently see the selected program descriptive field, the entered text, and optionally, the search results, thereby making it easier to modify the search criteria based on the search results and quickly make multiple searches.

Youman et al., teaches a system much like the previous search method described above, which requires a use to select a search field, such as time, date, or title. (Fig. 38C) After selecting the search field, the user is presented with an additional screen that consists of an entry for entering a text string and the search results. (Fig. 38D) Youman et al., does not teach or remotely suggest concurrently displaying program descriptive fields and an entry for entering a text string. Youman et al., repetitively describes a system that divides the search criteria up into multiple screens and demonstrates or suggest no motivation to combine the search criteria into a single screen to "provide a user with an easy and efficient way to search for a program" as taught by the present invention. (page 46, line 12 - page 48 line 14)

The system disclosed by Youman et al., suffers from the very problem that the invention recited by the current claim 1 currently addresses. Youman et al., does not teach

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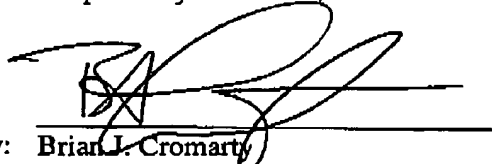
or suggest the problem addressed by the present application and, in fact, teaches away from it by repetitively describing many variations of the operation of system where every variation divides up the search criteria onto different screens. (page 46, line 12 - page 48 line 14) Since the prior art cited by the examiner does not suggest the problem addressed by the present invention, does not remotely suggest combining search criteria on a single screen, repetitively describes a system that teaches separating the search criteria on to different screens, and provides no motivation or suggestion to combine the search criteria on the same screen, it is submitted that the present invention recited by the current claim 1 is both novel and nonobvious in light of the cited prior art.

Furthermore it is submitted that independent claims 6, and 12 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Dependant claims 2-5, 7-11, and 13 are dependant from allowable independent claims and it is submitted that they are allowable on this basis and for at least the same reasons that independent claims 1, 6, and 12 are allowable.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Please charge the fee for the two month extension and any other fees due to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,


By: Brian J. Cromarty
See attached letter of limited recognition.
Phone (609) 734-6804

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Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
2 Independence Way - Suite 200
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

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